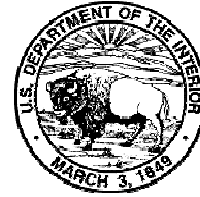


U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Sacramento NWR Complex
752 County Road 99W
Willows, CA 95988
Phone: 530/934-2801
Fax: 530/934-7814

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Contact: Lora Haller, Willows, CA
530/934-2801

2010 California Junior Duck Stamp Winners Announced

On Wednesday, March 31, over 30 volunteers, judges, and guests gathered in Willows, California, for the 21st annual California Federal Junior Duck Stamp Contest. Organized by Junior Duck Stamp State Coordinator, Marilyn Gamette, and hosted by the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex (SNWRC), the competition received nearly 1,800 artwork entries this year. Judges were tasked with selecting one entry as California's Best of Show, as well as 99 other entries to receive honors. Artists could earn first, second, or third place or an honorable mention within four age groups. David Zhou, age 14, from Union City won this year's Best of Show with his Fulvous Whistling Duck entry. His artwork will be submitted to Washington D.C. for the national competition to determine the Federal Junior Duck Stamp design for the next year. The national competition will be held on April 23rd at the Minnesota Science Museum in St. Paul.

Also, three conservation messages were selected from each age group to receive awards. These messages are submitted on the artwork entry form and judged for originality, understanding of wetland and waterfowl conservation, and inspiration. "It only takes a tiny action to make a ripple in water. Let us all make a small change for conservation, and create that expanding ripple." Janet Chan, age 17, from Arcadia received first place in her age group for this message. All 100 winning artwork entries and 12 winning conservation messages will be on display at various events throughout California for the next year.

Opening remarks during the judging ceremony focused on the partnerships among the organizations that provide the funding and manpower to make this program happen. The guest judges included: Gary Kramer, retired Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex Manager; Dean Kwasny, Natural Resources Conservation Service Wetlands Biologist; Dan Yparraguirre, California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) Waterfowl Coordinator; Steve Cordes, CDFG Upper Butte Basin Interim Manager; Marie Strassburger, Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Migratory Bird Chief; and Scott Huber of Altacal Audubon. Other volunteers from the SNWRC, California Waterfowl, and Central Valley Joint Venture worked on the daunting task of laying out all the artwork, tallying scores, and recording the 100 winners. These groups, as well as many other state and private partners, help sponsor this program each year.

The Federal Junior Duck Stamp Program combines science with the arts to bring conservation education to students around the country. The program is two-fold: students gain

knowledge about wetlands and waterfowl; and students use this knowledge to create waterfowl artwork for the competition. Teachers can incorporate the program into their curriculum, or may have guest speakers for classroom presentations. Interns from California Waterfowl and the SNWRC reached over 1,000 students through Junior Duck Stamp classroom presentations this year. For the first time in California, several public schools and their teachers will also be acknowledged for their continued contributions through teaching conservation education. Some of the students from these public schools will receive Special Achievement Awards from the SNWRC for their artistic talents, as well as being recognized at the Pacific Flyway Decoy Association Festival in Sacramento this July.



Judges holding the Best of Show. Photo by Erik Bergren, California Waterfowl.



Best of Show by David Zhou, age 14, from Union City. Photo by Erik Bergren, California Waterfowl.

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